

REMARKS

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 9 has been amended to address the antecedent issue noted by the Examiner. Claim 9 is accordingly now in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuda. Claims 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda. These rejections are moot in view of the claim amendments presented herein.

Objected-to dependent Claim 2 has been canceled and its subject matter added to Claim 1. Applicant submits that this places claim 1 in condition for favorable action and allowance. Dependent claims 3-8 and 10-11 should also be in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Claim 16 has been amended to included the subject matter of objected-to dependent claim 25. Applicant submits that this places claim 16 in condition for favorable action and allowance. Dependent claims 17-18, 20-24 and 26-27 should also be in condition for favorable action and allowance.

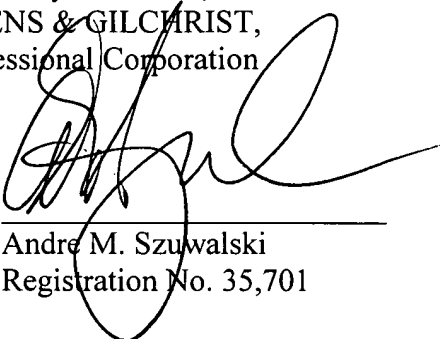
CUSTOMER NO. 30430

PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No. 03-C-006

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the currently pending claims are in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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